

RECOGNIZING THE GRAND ISLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, many talented Vermonters support local agencies charged with ensuring the safety of Vermont communities throughout the State, each and every day. Today I would like to recognize one such department—the Grand Isle County Sheriff's Department, which received two national Highway Safety Awards at last month's annual gathering of the International Association of Chiefs of Police in Chicago.

Grand Isle County lies in the north-west reaches of Vermont, covering five towns and 85 square miles of land. It is actually a chain of islands surrounded by the waters of Lake Champlain, with commanding views of the Adirondacks to the west and the Green Mountains to the east. Its communities swell with summer visitors who come to enjoy the "beauty spot" of the islands. While it is a rural area, Grand Isle County is also home to the busy Route 2 corridor that links the United States and Canada, a critical transportation route for commerce between the two countries. As such, Grand Isle provides unique challenges for Sheriff Ray Allen and his 13 sworn deputies who work to protect the safety of its visitors and residents while ensuring that traffic is not impeded.

The Grand Isle Sheriff's Department was one of only three small sheriff agencies to be recognized with the National Law Enforcement Safety Challenge award, as noted by the Burlington Free Press. The award cited the department's excellence in traffic safety, with specific focus on impaired driving and speeding violations.

Sheriff Allen's department was also honored with the National Sheriffs' Association's Top Traffic Safety Award, sharing that distinction with the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office.

These two awards are a notable achievement for a small department and in no small part due to Sheriff Allen's strong leadership. Sheriff Allen is the type of law enforcement officer who cares deeply about the communities he serves and the department he represents. Sheriff Allen was sworn into office in 2011, following 20 years of service as a deputy sheriff. When he is not tending to highways, he is tending to the family's well-known apple orchard.

On the Grand Isle Sheriff's Department Web site, Sheriff Allen cites "the great working relationship with Local, State and Federal agencies" that his department enjoys. This, we know, does not happen by accident, and such cooperation is a trademark of successful policing.

"We will strive to build upon the confidence and trust the citizens of Grand Isle County have placed upon us by developing strong relationships with the community and providing high quality, cost effective law enforcement services." This is Sheriff Allen's pledge, and one supported by those who work with him.

With these awards, Sheriff Allen has done just that. He has made his department and his community proud. Congratulations, Sheriff Ray Allen.

TRIBUTE TO PRISCILLA HOBSON HANLEY

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate the contributions of Priscilla Hobson Hanley, who is retiring after more than 30 years of distinguished public service as staff in the U.S. Congress.

Since the very beginning of my service in the Senate nearly 19 years ago, Priscilla has been one of my most valued advisers. She has always provided me with expertise on health care issues and Social Security, and most recently, she has served as staff director for the Senate Aging Committee. She exemplifies the ideal public servant; integrity, thoroughness, a spirit of inquiry, and hard work characterize her service. Above all, Priscilla has always demonstrated her belief that it is an honor to serve the people of Maine and our Nation.

I first met Priscilla in 1984 when we both worked for Maine Senator Bill Cohen. After brief stints working in the House for two Congressmen from her native California, Priscilla was hired by Senator Cohen that year and developed an in-depth knowledge of health care issues. She became deputy staff director of the Aging Committee when Senator Cohen served as chairman.

When I assumed Senator Cohen's seat in 1997, Priscilla was one of the very first people I hired; thus I had a terrific expert in two subject areas of great concern to my Maine constituents: health care and senior issues. As health policy adviser and legislative assistant, Priscilla brought her intelligence and experience to bear on the complex and myriad issues of health care, biomedical research, access to care in rural areas, women's health, Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. Through her leadership role on the Aging Committee staff, she advanced our priorities of improving retirement security, increasing funding for research on diseases like Alzheimer's and diabetes, and protecting against scams targeting seniors.

Three examples illustrate Priscilla's commitment to service. In 1997, my very first year in the Senate, we were considering a massive tax bill. At the last minute, a one-sentence provision appeared out of nowhere that was, beneath the innocuous wording, a \$50-billion tax giveaway to Big Tobacco. Priscilla spotted that one sentence in the 327-page bill, and we were able to put an end to the subsidy.

Priscilla also helped me start the Diabetes Caucus in the Senate in 1998. As a result of her dedication, funding for diabetes research has tripled since that year.

In 2003, our Nation was still reeling from the attacks of 9/11, and Congress

was working on a tax-cut bill to invigorate the struggling economy. A key to the success of that bill and to the economic rebound that followed was the temporary increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage, or FMAP, to help States provide health care to low-income families. Priscilla led the way in developing that key provision.

From dramatic increases in funding for diabetes and Alzheimer's research to improvements in rural health care and advancements in mental health parity, Priscilla has played a leadership role. Her work, due to her unassuming nature, may often be unheralded, but her legacy is inspiring to all of us who serve.

When not working for the American people, Priscilla's great passion is a love of musical theater. In fact, a rare interruption in her more than three decades of service on the Hill came when she took a brief respite from Congress to help run an opera company in Virginia.

Priscilla has a particular fondness for the comic operas of Gilbert and Sullivan, and like Major General Stanley of *The Pirates of Penzance*, she has an encyclopedic knowledge of all things "vegetable, animal, and mineral." She truly is the very model of a modern Senate staffer, a model all should emulate.

A life so devoted to public service brings to mind the parable of the talents. The master, leaving on a journey, entrusts a servant with a portion of his treasure. Upon his return, the master is delighted to find that his wealth was been wisely invested and multiplied.

Priscilla Hobson Hanley was entrusted the great treasure of intelligence, energy, and passion. She invested that treasure wisely and through hard work and determination multiplied its benefits to all. To her, I quote Scripture and say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

TRIBUTE TO MARK FELTON

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I wish to recognize one of West Virginia's prized public servants, Mark Felton, on the occasion of his retirement. Through his various roles in the Region III Planning and Development Council, Mark has been an indispensable resource to the four counties he has served for over 30 years.

After earning his bachelor's and master's degrees in geography from Marshall University, Mark began his career in the transportation department of the regional planning council in 1983. Mark authored and supervised innumerable transportation-related studies that benefited residents of the region through improved roads, bridges, travel times, and safety.

The regional councils serve as integral partners in the planning and execution of infrastructure improvements, including water and sewer projects. During my time representing the 2nd

Congressional District and continuing through to my time in the Senate, my staff and I worked with Mark and the council to complete numerous infrastructure projects; as a result, we provided potable water to thousands of West Virginians. I have always appreciated the technical assistance and knowledge that Mark and his staff bring to any undertaking. These projects are not always the most glamorous, but they are necessary for the health of the people we serve.

In 2006, Mark was promoted to executive director of the regional planning council. In this role, Mark successfully worked alongside local, county, and State leaders to achieve many goals throughout the region. Mark was consistent in his determination to utilize region III's resources in the most efficient manner possible.

One highlight of Mark's career includes working with the West Virginia Division of Highways and the U.S. Department of Transportation to build the Saint Albans—Nitro Bridge. This was a major achievement that required patience and diligent planning to complete. Through a clever design variation, millions of taxpayer dollars were saved, and the project was completed ahead of schedule. I commend Mark and his team for working skillfully with Federal and State partners to accomplish this huge undertaking under budget and on time. Time and again, Mark exhibited great leadership and wisdom in his roles with the regional planning council and has made a lasting difference in the health and safety of residents of Kanawha, Clay, Boone, and Putnam Counties.

In his spare time, Mark actively participates in local theater activities in the Kanawha Valley, acting in roles for the Charleston Light Opera Guild and Kanawha Players. In addition, he previously served as president of the Children's Theater of Charleston. Hopefully he will continue with his passion, as I have always enjoyed seeing him on stage.

Mark is also a member of Kanawha United Presbyterian Church where he actively participates in the church and bell choirs. Additionally, he is a property trustee of the church and plans to be more involved in both internal operations and outreach ministries after his retirement. Mark and his wife, Kerry, a kindergarten teacher for Kanawha County Schools, have two children, Erin and Patrick.

I wish Mark a fond farewell and the best of luck to him and his family in the next phase of their lives. Our State owes Mark a debt of gratitude for his hard work and dedication to his community. It has been a privilege working with him, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mark on a wonderful career.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR DONNALEE LOZEAU

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Nashua Mayor Donnalee Lozeau. As a resident of Nashua, I am so proud to call Donnalee my mayor. She is an extraordinary public servant, and I extend my heartfelt gratitude as she approaches the conclusion of her two terms serving the people of the Gate City.

As a third generation resident of Nashua and a graduate of the city's public school system, Donnalee cares deeply about Nashua's future, and she has a long record of service to the people of our city. That includes her previous service to Nashua in the New Hampshire House of Representatives for eight terms, earning the role of deputy speaker. She has always been known for her independent leadership, her commitment to bringing people together to build consensus, and for ensuring that government is responsive and efficient on behalf of hard-working taxpayers. Donnalee grasps the qualities of what makes our State unique, and in turn, she leads with a passion for problem-solving and a dedication to delivering results. She truly listens to everyone and communicates in sincere and candid terms—which I believe makes her an exceptional leader. In addition, as Nashua's first female mayor, Donnalee is an inspiration for young women in our State to pursue public service.

Under her leadership, Nashua's growth and resilience as a city helped lead to major accomplishments in infrastructure, public education, new business sectors, and companies. Donnalee brought her welcoming, honest, and accessible approach to governing and enhanced the reputation of the city of Nashua by exemplifying those values. In addition to her tireless work at city hall, she has also been an active leader promoting philanthropic, cultural, and business activity across the city. As part of her ongoing dedication to serving Nashua's community and those in need, Donnalee will continue to contribute to our city as executive director of Southern New Hampshire Services, a nonprofit social services agency. Her legacy is also being honored by Nashua's Rivier University with the creation of the Mayor Donnalee Lozeau Leadership Scholarship, which will be used to support the development of many generations of new leaders to come.

As Donnalee prepares to leave city hall, I would like to thank her for the thousands of hours she devoted to making Nashua an even better place to live, work, and raise a family. I am so grateful for Donnalee's leadership, commitment, and friendship, and I wish her all the best as she begins the next chapter of her career. •

TRIBUTE TO DR. ROBERT E. WOLVERTON, SR.

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend the remarkable 66-year, and still counting, career of Mississippi State University professor and lifelong educator, Robert E. "Bob" Wolverton, Sr., of Starkville, MS. His many years of hard work and dedication continue to inspire the Mississippi State family to learn more and achieve more for the betterment of our State and Nation. I congratulate Dr. Wolverton for his important contributions to higher education throughout his distinguished career. He and his wife, Peggy, are well respected and admired throughout the university and community.

Mr. President, I ask that a December 1, 2015, article from Mississippi State University, titled "MSU honors Wolverton with naming of new building rotunda," be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

[From the Mississippi State University, Dec. 1, 2015]

MSU HONORS WOLVERTON WITH NAMING OF NEW BUILDING ROTUNDA (By Harriet Laird)

STARKVILLE, MS.—An accomplished professor and lifelong educator whose career spans more than six decades will be honored by Mississippi State with the naming of a select area in one of the university's newest and largest buildings.

Robert E. "Bob" Wolverton Sr., former vice president for academic affairs and longtime professor of classics, will see his name etched into the rotunda of MSU's new classroom building, a 150,000 square foot structure currently under construction in the heart of the 137-year-old campus. The honor comes while the 90-year-old educator is still active as a member of the MSU faculty.

Seeing more than 2,000 students walk each day through the facility's rotunda once construction is completed in the fall of 2016, this naming reflects Wolverton's dedication to educating students for 66 years, 38 of those at Mississippi State.

"Simply put, Dr. Wolverton is a venerable institution at our university," said MSU President Mark E. Keenum. "At an age where most professors have long since retired, Dr. Wolverton continues to inspire his students, his colleagues, and this administration through his true wisdom and the passion he still has for the subject matter he imparts. What a fitting honor that the rotunda in one of our soon-to-be iconic buildings will forever bear his name."

Wolverton began his tenure at MSU in 1977 when he became the university's vice president of academic affairs, having served previously as president for the College of Mount St. Joseph in Ohio. In 1986, he began teaching in the Department of Foreign Languages, now the Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures, serving as the unit's head from 1991-1996.

A two-term chair of MSU's Robert Holland Faculty Senate, he last held the title eight years ago at age 82, with many regarding him as the "elder statesman" in such a position at any college or university.

Also an MSU John Grisham Master Teacher, the highest honor given for excellence in classroom instruction, Wolverton has been honored with the MSU Alumni Association Faculty Achievement Award and College of Arts and Sciences Humanist Award.

"All of us admire Bob Wolverton for his unwavering commitment to excellence in